

Name: **Chalk Mountain WY-030-28N80W19-2012**

**FORM 1**

**Documentation of BLM Wilderness Inventory Findings on Record**

**1. Is there existing BLM wilderness inventory information on all or part of this area?**

No ☐ X ☒ Yes ☐ \_\_\_\_\_ (if yes, and if more than one area is within the area, list the names of those areas):

**a) Inventory Source:** N/A \_\_\_\_\_

**b) Inventory Area Name(s)/Number(s):** \_ N/A \_\_\_\_\_

**c) Map Name(s)/Number(s):** N/A

**d) BLM District (s)/Field Office(s):** \_\_ N/A

**2. BLM Inventory Finds on Record:**

Existing inventory information regarding wilderness characteristics (if more than one BLM inventory area is associated with the area, list each area and answer each question individually for each inventory area):

## **FORM 2**

### **Current Conditions: Presence or Absence of Wilderness Characteristics**

a. Area Number/Name: **Chalk Mountain WY-030-28N80W19-2012** Acreage 15,379.95

(1) Is the area of sufficient size?

Yes ☒ No ☐

Describe the boundaries of the area (roads, property lines, etc.). If the area meets one of the exceptions to the size criterion, check “Yes” and describe the exception. If more than one inventory area is involved, list the acres in each and evaluate each area/sub-area separately. In completing steps (1) – (5), use additional space as necessary.

The unit is bound on the west by private and state land and Wyoming State Highway 77. The unit is bound on the south and west by BLM Road 3129 a.k.a. Chalk Mountain Rd as well as state and private land. The unit is bound on the north by BLM Road 3142, a.k.a. Stinking Creek Rd., and sections of private land.

DESCRIPTION OF CURRENT CONDITIONS: The Chalk Mountain area under consideration is 15379.95 acres of BLM public land. The unit contains the following townships:

| TOWNSHIP | RANGE | SECTION | TOWNSHIP | RANGE | SECTION |
|----------|-------|---------|----------|-------|---------|
| t27n     | r80w  | 8       | t28n     | r80w  | 19      |
| t27n     | r80w  | 7       | t28n     | r80w  | 20      |
| t27n     | r80w  | 9       | t28n     | r80w  | 21      |
| t27n     | r80w  | 10      | t28n     | r80w  | 22      |
| t27n     | r81w  | 12      | t28n     | r81w  | 23      |
| t27n     | r80w  | 5       | t28n     | r81w  | 22      |
| t27n     | r80w  | 6       | t28n     | r81w  | 21      |
| t27n     | r80w  | 4       | t28n     | r81w  | 13      |
| t27n     | r80w  | 3       | t28n     | r80w  | 18      |
| t27n     | r81w  | 1       | t28n     | r80w  | 17      |
| t28n     | r81w  | 36      | t28n     | r81w  | 14      |
| t28n     | r80w  | 31      | t28n     | r80w  | 16      |
| t28n     | r80w  | 32      | t28n     | r80w  | 15      |
| t28n     | r80w  | 33      | t28n     | r81w  | 15      |
| t28n     | r80w  | 34      | t28n     | r81w  | 16      |
| t28n     | r81w  | 25      | t28n     | r81w  | 12      |
| t28n     | r80w  | 30      | t28n     | r80w  | 7       |
| t28n     | r80w  | 29      | t28n     | r80w  | 8       |
| t28n     | r80w  | 28      | t28n     | r81w  | 10      |

|      |      |    |      |      |   |
|------|------|----|------|------|---|
| t28n | r80w | 27 | t28n | r80w | 9 |
| t28n | r81w | 26 | t28n | r81w | 9 |
| t28n | r81w | 27 | t28n | r80w | 5 |
| t28n | r81w | 28 | t28n | r80w | 4 |
| t28n | r81w | 24 | t28n | r81w | 3 |

The topography consists, primarily, of the Chalk Mountains. Elevation ranges from 8531 feet on the tops of the mountains above the drainages to, approximately, 6500 feet at the bottom of the drainages. The dominant vegetation cover in the Chalk Mountains is Subalpine Fir, Engelmann Spruce, Lodgepole Pine, Limber Pine, Quaking Aspen as well as numerous varieties of juniper, sagebrush, and Rabbit Bush. The dominant vegetation cover in the remainder of the unit is mountain big sagebrush on the slopes and uplands of the unit and wet meadow cover along creeks and draws. The primary land use is recreational hunting, camping, and OHV riding. The primary, dispersed recreational activity in the area is hunting.

(2) Does the area appear to be natural?

Yes ☐ No ☒ N/A ☐

Description: The 47.25 miles of primitive routes (i.e., unimproved roads and two-track trails) detract from the unit's naturalness. Examples of these primitive routes are demonstrated in photos 1-3, 5-6, 8-9, 11, and 13. When hiking across the Chalk Mountain Unit, the casual observer cannot escape the constant view of primitive routes. These primitive routes create noticeable linear intrusions and disturbances that interrupt the experience of any wilderness character briefly encountered in areas untrammelled by the works of man.

The area contains four oil and gas wells throughout the Chalk Mountain Unit (see example in Photo 12). When examining the status of the oil and gas wells, all three of these wells were permanently abandoned between 1948 and 1973. These wells have been fully reclaimed and were not found to detract from the naturalness or to be substantially noticeable to the casual observer.

The Chalk Mountain Unit also contains four man-made reservoirs (see examples in Photos 4 and 7). When the casual observer encounters these man-made borrow pits and impounded reservoirs, the linear and textual contrast on the landscape attracts the attention of the observer to these modifications constructed with mechanized equipment.

The casual observer is often attracted to bodies of water while hiking. Water adds interest and diversity to the landscape. When arriving at each of the reservoirs, the casual observer would notice that it is not a natural lake and that they have encountered an impounded, muddy borrow pit. The hiker seeking refreshment from clean water, would quickly notice that this "reservoir" is designed for cattle operations where the water is unfit for human consumption or swimming. The range improvements, including the four reservoirs, one spring, and 20.74 miles of fence (Photo 5), were constructed, primarily, for commercial grazing operations. These improvements give the

casual observer a perception that they are visitors to a cattle range rather than a wilderness untrammelled by the works of man. While the presence of cattle is compatible with a natural landscape for wilderness inventory purposes, the noticeable presence of numerous grazing-related developments in this unit is not.

In sum, the cumulative impacts on naturalness including the numerous primitive routes, and permanent range improvements have impaired the naturalness in the Chalk Mountain Unit to a level that is incompatible with the definitions of wilderness provided in Section 2(c) of the Wilderness Act of 1964 (incorporated in FLPMA 1976):

**A wilderness, in contrast with those areas where man and his own works dominate the landscape, is hereby recognized as an area where the earth and its community of life are untrammelled by man, where man himself is a visitor who does not remain. An area of wilderness is further defined to mean in this Act an area of undeveloped Federal land retaining its primeval character and influence, without permanent improvements or human habitation, which is protected and managed so as to preserve its natural conditions and which (1) generally appears to have been affected primarily by the forces of nature, with the imprint of man's work substantially unnoticeable; (2) has outstanding opportunities for solitude or a primitive and unconfined type of recreation; (3) has at least five thousand acres of land or is of sufficient size as to make practicable its preservation and use in an unimpaired condition; and (4) may also contain ecological, geological, or other features of scientific, educational, scenic, or historical value.**

(3) Does the area or the remainder of the area (if a portion has been excluded due to unnaturalness and the remainder is of sufficient size) have outstanding opportunities for solitude?

Yes ☐ No ☐ N/A ☒

Description:

(4) Does the area or the remainder of the area (if a portion has been excluded due to unnaturalness and the remainder is of sufficient size) have outstanding opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation?

Yes ☐ No ☐ N/A ☒

Description:

(5) Does the area have supplemental values (ecological, geological, or other features of scientific, educational scenic or historical value)?

Yes ☐ No ☐ N/A ☒

Description:

## Summary of Analysis

**Area Name and/or Number: Chalk Mountain WY-030-28N80W19-2012**

### Summary

Results of analysis:

1. Does the area meet any of the size requirements? ☒ Yes ☐ No
2. Does the area appear to be natural? ☐ Yes ☒ No ☐ N/A
3. Does the area offer outstanding opportunities of solitude or a primitive and unconfined type of recreation? ☐ Yes ☐ No ☒ N/A
4. Does the area have supplemental values? ☐ Yes ☐ No ☒ N/A

Check one:

\_\_\_\_\_ The area, or a portion of the area, has wilderness characteristics and is identified as Land with Wilderness Characteristics (LWC).

\_\_X\_\_ The area does not have wilderness characteristics.

**Prepared by: Christopher D. Jones**

Team members:

| Name               | Title                           |
|--------------------|---------------------------------|
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**Reviewed by:**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Dennis Carpenter, Field Manager

**Date:** \_\_\_\_\_